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CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ARQUITECTONICS: MIND, LAND, SOCIETY

**BUILDING THE SOCIAL LIFE: THE EMBODIED, CONFIGURATIVE AND DIALOGIC
KNOWLEDGE EMBEDDED IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING**

BARCELONA COAC- UPC, ETSAB. 31 MAY, 1 AND 2 JUNE, 2017

Supported by:

COAC. Catalan Association of Architects.
UPC Research Group GIRAS. Magda Saura, Josep Muntañola
Unicef CAI

MAIN TOPICS AND MAIN REFERENCES OF THE CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

n. 5 From Design to Construction. Sustainability (Environmental Design Issues)

From design to construction the way is long and often knowledge change or disappears. The role of technologies is a key role at this point, since they can transform the aesthetics and the functionality of the buildings.

A design experience for temporary buildings at the waterfront of Augusta (Italy)

This research deals with an example of sustainable development of the urban waterfront of Augusta, through an analysis of the relationship between this part of urban landscape with great historical and environmental value, and the design/architectural project.

Inside the historical urban development of the city of Augusta, strategically related to the sea, the relation with the coast has constantly represented, during centuries, one of the most important elements able to increase its economic and historical value. Nevertheless the demands of the bordering port area and the constant presence of industrial plants did not leave room to the growth and development of the residual coastal urban areas, where the access to the sea, almost miraculously, still today remains public.

The central point of our idea was to provide services to citizens, through the creation of temporary design architectures, able to retrain, make more accessible, increase the growth and development of this part of the coast.

Modular design architectural projects

One of the most complex aspects analyzed in contemporary cities is the ability to equip urban areas with comforting architectures and spaces having their own architectural and design identity. Some experimental projects now in progress underline that the concepts of flexibility and adaptability are essential within the evolution of architectonic space. Going deeper in terms of the modular architecture, being at the same time sustainable and innovative, we feel the need to discuss about an urban project able to pay attention to issues such as: the relationships with citizens, mobility, the correct use of time, the uncertainty of economics while elements such as permanence and immutability, are more and more discussed today and underline the new dimensions of transformability and instability.

Some projects carried out during the 1960s were an attempt to find new meanings of a life style in continuous changing, discovering new ways of living in the city. At the moment there exist several extreme examples of the concept of flexibility and adaptability of the collective space where a mutable space corresponds to an articulated façade and where movements represent a direct relation with an active and dynamic civilization. (Nagakin Capsule Tower building – Kisho Kurokawa- Ginza 1972; Plug – In – City, Archigram – Peter Cook-).

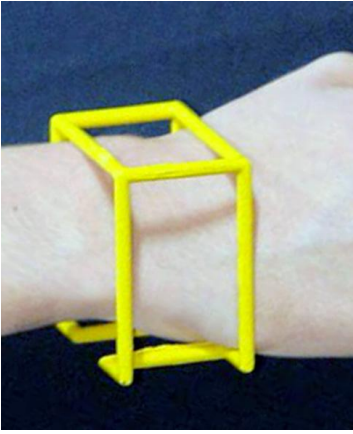
Going on with the research, we were forced to pay serious attention to the analysis of this part of the urban waterfront of Augusta. This produced some essential points of discussion about the area of study. The main aim of the research was to equip this part of coastline with temporary playful and cultural services able to improve the use of the waterfront during the summer, and able, during the years, to renovate the urban accessibility process.

The proposal sees the insertion of a modular structure along the waterfront, with a system of horizontal and vertical circulation, and built with prefabricated elements that constitute boxes with different functions. We call them ***bangles***.

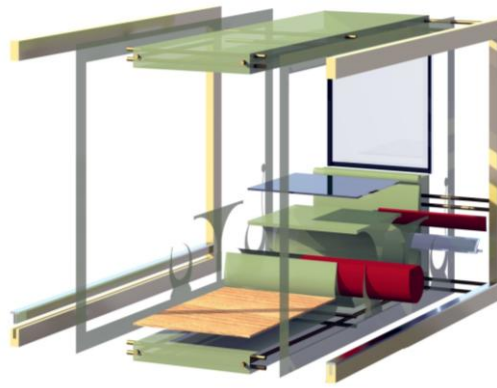
Urban bangle

Bangles are prefabricated forms with standard dimensions. They are made with light materials and are flexible to be used in several combinations to create gathering spaces, commercial areas, restaurants, offices etc. The number of bangles could change depending on the request. The project considers the dismantlement of the bangles and the whole structure during the winter.

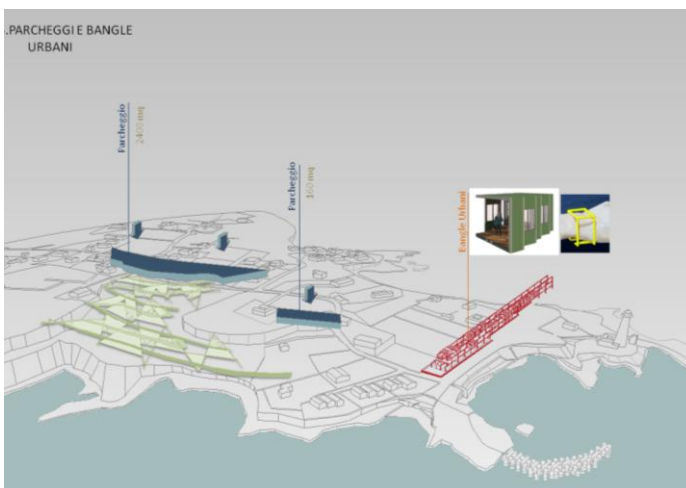
The aim of our research was to reconsider a space which users could consider their own habitat, thanks to flexibility and to innovative solutions able to produce different combinations inside the same form, with the chance to be transformed depending on different needs. Environmental design will characterize the new urban waterfront of Augusta.



bangle



urban bangle



Augusta waterfront

